

Call to Worship: Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift.

Call to Confession: If we then who are evil, know how to give good gifts to our children, how much ~~more~~ more will our Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him? Let us ask for forgiveness.

Lord: have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.  
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 21, 1971

The Organ Prelude  
\*The Hymn of Praise 434  
\*The Call to Worship  
\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
Father God, we humbly ask forgiveness, for we have squandered that which thou hast so graciously given to the sons of men. We spread the gift of fertile soil to the winds and cause it to be washed into the sea. In our greed we pollute the pure water and lakes and streams. We take the ore from under the earth and use it for evil purposes. If only, Father, this were the end of it! But even more, we abuse, twist, and manipulate thy gift of our brothers for our private ends. Even this is not the end, for we take the gift of thy Son, and his body the Church, and his Word, and bend them to our desires. Have mercy, most merciful Father. Amen.  
\*The Kyrie  
\*The Assurance of Pardon  
The Scripture---Genesis 32:1-14  
\*The Gloria Patri  
Anthem  
Pastoral Prayer  
Announcements  
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
\*The Doxology  
\*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
Thank Offering---Trinity Church, page 22-23  
The Organ Dedication---Christ Church  
The Hymn of Meditation 435  
The Sermon---"A Fight For Survival"  
The Sermon Prayer  
\*The Hymn of Response 436

\*The Benediction  
\*The Threefold Amen  
\*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

#### TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Women United will meet at Trinity United Methodist Church, Mon. evening at 8:00 P.M. to make bed pads.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Wed. Nov. 24th at 7:30 P.M. at Trinity United Methodist Church. The Rev. Robert Dalton will be the speaker.

Next Sunday, Nov. 28th, the Rev. Braynard E. Kurkowski, ministerial candidate for the Newport charge will preach.

#### CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Family Advent Wreath fellowship will be held at 2:00 P.M. this afternoon. Organ recital this evening at 7:30 P.M. *Old Church, Fun*  
*Organ: BAIN, GREENS.*

Today is Mrs. Linda Achenbach's birthday. We extend our best wishes to her and wish her a very happy birthday.

The flowers this morning have been placed in loving memory of Homer Dowdrick by Mary Louise Dowdrick and family.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held Wed. Nov. 24th at 7:30 P.M. here in our church. The Rev. Lloyd Holt will be the speaker.

Missionary Circle, with the help of others, will have the worship service at Kinross Home on Sun. Nov. 28th at 2:00 P.M.

*MARK BURNHAM REMEMBER THIS WEEK*  
*ORGAN 1/2 PD FOR*

THANKS GIVING

A Fight For Survival

GEN

Text: Genesis 32:26 "Who is for Yahweh? To me!"

"Over the river and through the wood;  
To grandfather's house we go;  
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh,  
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river and through the wood-  
Oh how the wind does blow!  
It stings the toes and bites the nose,  
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood,  
To have a first rate play.  
Hear the bells ring, ting-a-ling-ding!  
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!"

Perhaps this little poem by Lydia Maria Child, brings back some fond memories of Thanksgiving days gone on before. I can think

~~back to when my teacher in school would read this poem, or some other~~

Back to

~~this time of the year, when for a day or so before Thanksgiving the regular arithmetic lessons were put away and the kindly old teacher would read such poems to us. Or she would read of the first Thanksgiving Day. My mind would wander and I would become involved in wonderful daydreams. I could picture a sleigh going through the woods to a nice warm cozy farmhouse and once inside smell the pleasant pungent aroma of roasting turkey, mingled with the smell of spices and pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce. This was pleasant pastime as a young lad, but is Thanksgiving just a time for pleasant memories and turkey and pumpkin pie? Is it just a time that we set aside to indulge in leisure or in feasting? Or does it have another significance?~~

In response to this I am reminded of the covenant that was made between God and man. I think we can all recall how God told Abraham that he would be their God if they would believe in him and follow

Him. He made a covenant with them in this respect. I think we also know how, down through the years the people would follow and then turn from God and <sup>THEY DID</sup> ~~do~~ this time after time, <sup>AND</sup> Each time God would accept them back into the fold.

Finally Moses came along, and God selected him to be the leader for his people, the Israelites. So, after, <sup>GOD HAD</sup> visiting ~~ing~~ the Egyptians with ~~plagu~~ plagues, the Israelites were on their way to the promised land. The land flowing with milk and honey. But while Moses was on the mount talking with God, the people became restless and asked Aaron to help them. They asked him to make them a God, because Moses had deserted them and they needed someone to lead them. So they made the golden calf.

But Moses was sent back by God, <sup>AND he and Joshua returned FROM MT. SINAI</sup> and he became so angry he threw the tablets of stone to the ground breaking them, and he ground the calf to powder and made them drink of it.

Then he exclaimed, <sup>IN OTHER WORDS WHO IS FOR GOD COMED UP HERE</sup> "Who is for Yahweh? To me!" And so the Levites who came to Moses were instructed to kill some of the Israelites for their evil. About 3,000 men were killed that day. Moses then went back to the mount and spoke to God again, and God renewed his covenant with the people. But then if we follow the history of the Israelites, <sup>FURTHER</sup> we see that they would follow for a certain length of time and then they would fall away from God. And so <sup>IT WAS THAT</sup> God established a new covenant with his people in the form of Jesus Christ. This present covenant is what you and I are living under.

~~But~~ <sup>In</sup> the founding of this nation, a renewal of the covenant took place and it was called the Mayflower Compact. ~~These~~ pilgrims who first landed here took this covenant seriously. They brought with them their Geneva Bible and they started a colony of God fearing and God loving people.

Contrary to popular belief, the 102 people who made up this original group were a youthful group. Mostly they were young couples with children. William Bradford was just 31 when he was elected governor of



~~of~~ this group not long after their arrival. Some of the other leaders were in their twenties. But the real significance of these people was, that they took their faith seriously enough, and this is what sustained them through the hardships they endured. More than half of the people who landed at Plymouth Rock ~~in 1620~~ died within a matter of weeks after that landing in that bitter winter of 1620-1621.

But thanksgiving was one biblical precept that they observed. If we read the scriptures, we find that the Israelites gave thanks time after time, when God did something for them. Even though they turned from him completely and repeatedly, they would give thanks when they were again on good terms with him.

William Bradford told how that first Thanksgiving Day was set aside, <sup>IT CAME ABOUT</sup> because a long spring summer drought had threatened their crops, so they, quote, "set apart a solemn day of humiliation, to seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer, in this great distress." Bradford further stated that the day was clear and hot, yet toward evening the sky became overcast and a long soaking rain followed, which astonished even the Indians. Seasonable showers thereafter gave them a good harvest and so they set apart a special day for thanksgiving.

~~It is also strange that~~ National Bible Week will be observed this week as well as Thanksgiving Day. Both of these events should go together it seems. With your bulletin, you ~~also~~ received a bookmark with Bible readings on it for November and December. You may <sup>IF YOU WANT</sup> ~~also~~ send to the American Bible Society for a calendar of Bible readings for 1972. ~~But~~ Isn't it rather strange that the two things upon which our country has been founded, are in such desperate straits today? The church has been declining and Bible reading has been outlawed in many ways. But our pursuit of pleasure and relaxation has increased at a rate so terrific, that the manufacturers of motor homes, campers, skimobiles and so on have not been able to keep pace. Our legislators are concerned with getting us more and more three day holidays so we may

have more time to travel and be enjoying ourselves. I heard one of our nationally known ~~xxxx~~ commentators facetiously remark that very soon our holidays will all be known by different names and all be observed at different times. For instance the 4th of July will be on some weekend in June and be known as something other than independence day. Yom Kippur for the Jews will be known as the minority ethnic group holiday, and Christmas will be on a ~~three~~ day weekend in December and be known as "Other religions special day." Now all of this may be said in fun, but really what has happened in our nation is to change the real meaning and true purpose of our national holidays. Are these merely weekends to have fun, or are they meant for a specific purpose, we must ask?

Thanksgiving is a holiday of special religious significance and it should be observed as such. But is it? The answer is a resounding no. There were only about 17 people who had something to be thankful for in <sup>ALL OF</sup> New Bloomfield last year. At least this is the number who showed up for the Thanksgiving Eve service last year. There were only 100 people in Duncannon who had anything to be thankful for last year, at least this is the number who showed up for services last year, and most of them were from the church where the service was held. *I THINK THIS SHOULD VERY PLAINLY TELL US WHAT MOST PEOPLE THINK OF THE HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE.*

I realize that we are busy people and we all have many things to do. But I ask you, are we that busy that we cannot take time to worship God for one hour, for all the blessings we have received this past year?

In an editorial in Christianity Today from November of last year, (1970), the editor ~~asked~~ remarked, "Do we really dare follow their example, (meaning the Pilgrims), of discipline and devotion? Actually we may not have a choice. For them it was a matter of survival, and it may soon be for us as well." We are involved in a test of our devotion and discipline right now, as we <sup>HAVE</sup> never ~~have~~ been before. Our nation is torn as it has never been torn before. We have all manner of factions and groups contending for our time, our money and our minds. We as a people

and as a nation must become stronger in our devotion and in our discipline if we are to continue as a nation Under God. Our nation has been a nation that has tried to live under the new covenant from God. But slowly and surely those who oppose God, are gaining new in-roads every year and in fact every day. We are being undermined and undercut in more ways than we realize. If we don't wake up soon, and start getting back to being a thankful God-fearing people and nation, it will be too late.

Let us have fun, let us enjoy our ~~holy~~ holidays. Let's do some of the things we like to do. But let us also remember what all of this is about. Let's be thankful enough to our God and creator, that we show it in our devotion and in our discipline to Him.

The late president John F. Kennedy said in his Thanksgiving proclamation in 1963, "Let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God; and let us earnestly and humbly pray that He will continue to guide and sustain us in the great unfinished tasks of achieving peace, justice and understanding among all men." ~~Let us pray.~~

THE RALLYING CRY FOR US IS THE SAME AS IT WAS FOR THE ISRAELITES, ALL WHO ARE FOR YAHWEH, SHOW IT. THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL IS ON AND WE ARE ALL DEEPLY INVOLVED LIKE IT OR NOT. WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE LIVE WILL BE GREAT DETERMINING FACTORS IN THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION. WHO IS FOR YAHWEH? TO HIM! LET US PRAY.